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D A I L Y R E V I E W

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Wednesday, January 10, 1951.

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HIGHER DEFENSE COUNCIL

Al-Hawadith, referring to the Prime Minister's speech at King Faisal II Hall on the "Developments of War and Politics" in the 19th and 20th centuries in which he touched on the subject of amending the Higher Defense Council Law, says that this meeting which was attended by the various Ministers concerned, had discussed the amendment to the Higher Defense Council Law of 1938 to make it consistent with the present world developments.

ARAB LEAGUE AND THE REGIONAL BLOC BETWEEN THE MIDDLE AND NEAR EASTERN COUNTRIES

Al-Hawadith states that the Foreign Office has been informed by the League of the insertion of another item on the agenda, concerning the proposed adherence of the Arab League States to the Regional Bloc amongst the Middle and Near Eastern countries under the UN. This proposal was made by the Arab Delegates at Lake Success in response to the request of the western powers.

Political circles in the Arab States, it explains, pin great hopes on the new development between the Arab League and the United Nations as they expect that such a bloc would cause an overall settlement of certain Arab issues with the Western Powers, and terminate the bilateral treaties providing for the maintenance of foreign troops in Arab territories. (Al-Hawadith)

HE HUSSAIN JAMIL CALLS FOR AN IRAQI NATIONAL CONGRESS

525 According to the Arab News Agency, HE Hussain Jamil, former Minister of Justice is now calling for the formation of an Iraqi national congress along the line of the Indian National Congress. (Az-Zaman)

525 HRH Princess Badia, Sister of HRH the Regent has given birth to a boy baby. HRH is the wife of Sherif Hussain. (Az-Zaman)

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SOVIET OFFER TO PURCHASE IRAQI DATES

Az-Zaman referring to the Soviet Consul's interview with the DG of Date Board Association, says that the Soviet Union has expressed its readiness to purchase up to 10,000 tons of Iraqi dates on the proviso that Iraq would import Russian paper and textiles. (Az-Zaman)

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STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF ECONOMICS

HE the Minister of Economics told Az-Zaman that he gives particular attention to the industrialization of the country and that he will shortly submit to the Majlis a draft bill for the construction of a sugar factory. He reaffirmed the government's case against the British oil companies for payment of oil royalties in gold. He is striving to conclude, he said, two commercial agreements with Western Germany and Italy in addition to the agreements announced earlier, and said that it is his policy to intensify the economic blockade of Israel. (Az-Zaman)

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PURCHASE OF 100 BUSES FOR THE DG OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICE

The Ministry of Interior has requested the approval of the Finance Ministry to purchase 100 buses for the DG of Passenger Transport Service, and the allocation of the necessary funds therefor. (Az-Zaman)

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TREATIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

Reports that the Foreign Office and the Spanish Legation in Baghdad are to work a draft treaty of friendship between the two countries, followed by a cultural-commercial treaty for organizing trade. It mentions several items which Spain can export to Iraq, including cotton, silk, and woollen textiles, tires and pharmaceutical products. (Al-Akhbar)

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CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMERICA AND IRAQ

Liwa Al-Istiqlal reports the proposed cultural agreement between Iraq and the United States for the establishment of an American cultural institution in Baghdad to facilitate cultural exchange. The functions of this institution, it says consist of: recommending students and professors for study in America or in Iraq at its expense; and distribution of funds for cultural and educational projects in Iraq and Iraqi

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officials assigned to both institutions in Baghdad and Washington, enjoy customs privileges on reciprocal basis. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

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Al-Hussoun commenting on the recent meeting of the Defense Council which it believes, has decided to stand by one of the camps, reminds that the Arabs were cheated during the First and Second World Wars by empty British promises. It explains that British launched a widespread propaganda against Hitler's regime in order to convince the Arabs to stand by their side for the second time. But when victory was won, the British again failed to fulfil their promises and instead surrendered Palestine to the Jews. It concludes that the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular should be aware of any further promises. (Al-Hussoun)

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As-Sijil commenting on the Commonwealth Conference now being held in London, writes that although the result of these talks are not yet known, it can predict that the situation in the Far East and in the Arab countries will also be discussed as the British would like to know the extent of aid the Arab countries could extend in the event of the outbreak of a Third World War. It further explains that the strategic importance of the Arab countries and the existence of their oil near Russia, have been given great prominence in the Defense Plans of the Western Powers. Therefore, it concludes, the western powers would lay pressure to bear on the Arabs to have them on their side. (As-Sijil)

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